

New Iberia La Jan 1st 1864

My Dear Mother

As it is New Year day I thought - I would write you a short letter, and wish you all a "happy New Year" I suppose you have had a fine time to day you probably did if Harrison got home time enough to enjoy it with you but I hardly think he did.

How I should enjoy a good old fashioned New Years ~~stuck~~ such as we used to have before the family was broken up.

I hope before another year rolls around that we may ^{all} be permitted to meet again at the old homestead with the family circle unbroken. But we cannot tell what changes the year will bring about - I received your letter of Dec the 6th

with one from Ellen to Garrison

I suppose Ellen will look for an answer from me as I took the liberty of oppressing it. And since then I have received one from her to me and a line from you ^{to Garrison} in it.

You want to know if Uncle Sam lent me five dollars? I borrowed it of him.

when I went to New Orleans from New Berlin with wounded I saw him there and went with him to the pay masters to get his pay and took seventy five ^{dollars} of it and expressed it for him. He wanted to send eighty and I told if he would let me have five dollars that I would have you pay Aunt Frank. I was out of money at the time.

You want to know if it was wearing cotton shirts that caused me to have the ague that might of helped it along but a man I notice is just as apt to have it whether he has woolen shirts or cotton ones on.

I have not worn those checked shirts since you sent me these flannel ones when these ones are gone I want another pair just like them and just the same size

I have the Ague now once in a while
but not so bad as before. But I have
got used to ~~to~~ it so I don't mind ^{it} much now.

It is an awful cold night - last night was the
coldest night - that we have had since we have
been in this state. we feel the cold a great deal
more than we ever did before at home it
seems. But it don't trouble Jimmy and my-
self much for we have a good tent to sleep
in and a good fire place in it so that
we can sleep as cozy as you please.

But I pity the boys that are on picket for
they are not allowed to have any fire
I know how to pity them for I have been there.
There is one regiment of our Brigade the 12th
Cous going to start for home tomorrow
they have been in the service two years
and have reenlisted for three years. they get
a bounty of \$500.00 and a furlough for 30 days
after they get into their own state.

I am under another Dr now. Dr Wilson
has been relieved and Dr Benedict takes his
place a much better man than Wilson.
Jimmy is clerk for the Adjutant ^{General} now. the Dr

office is in the same tent -

There is no news of importance here to
write the boys from Leonardville are
all well. Give my love to all and
write often

From Your Affetⁿ Son

Francis J. Brand